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the *Origin of species*, no one seems more appropriate and satisfactory than the volume issued by the Cambridge Philosophical Society and the Syndics of the University Press.[5] It consists of twenty-eight essays written by those who are most competent to present the various appropriate topics. The result is to illustrate the far-reaching influence of DARWIN'S work and also the present attitude of investigators toward Darwinism. Some of the essayists have restricted themselves to DARWIN'S own work; while others have outlined the progress of more recent research, which has been the direct outcome of his work. Two photographs of DARWIN are reproduced, one made in 1854, and the other in 1880; while a reproduced etching gives a most interesting view of the study at Down. To review such a collection of essays briefly is impossible, but the subjects and the authors will indicate the general contents to those interested in evolutionary doctrine. Ten of the twenty-eight essays are of interest to botanists.

The series most appropriately begins with an introductory letter by Sir JOSEPH D. HOOKER, for forty years the intimate friend and correspondent of DARWIN. The ten essays of botanical interest are as follows: "Darwin's predecessors," by J. ARTHUR THOMSON (15 pp.); "The selection theory," by AUGUST WEISMANN (48 pp.); "Variation," by HUGO DE VRIES (19 pp.); "Heredity and variation in modern lights," by W. BATESON (17 pp.); "The minute structure of cells in relation to heredity," by EDUARD STRASBURGER (10 pp.); "The palaeontological record. II. Plants," by D. H. SCOTT (23 pp.); "The influence of environment on the forms of plants," by GEORG KLEBS (24 pp.); "Geographical distribution of plants," by W. T. THISELTON-DYER (21 pp.); "Darwin's work on the movement of plants," by FRANCIS DARWIN (16 pp.); "The biology of flowers," by K. GOEBEL (23 pp.)

All of these essays address themselves primarily to the intelligent public rather than to investigators, and therefore they are in a sense popular statements and not contributions to knowledge. In spite of this, they are very interesting to investigators, for personal and recent points of view are in evidence throughout, and the whole group of related topics is brought together in clear and compact form.—J. M. C.

MINOR NOTICES

Recent publications from the National Herbarium.—A. S. HITCHCOCK (Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb. 12:183–258. 1909) has issued a "Catalogue of the grasses of Cuba." The work is based primarily on material in the herbarium of the Experiment Station at Santiago de las Vegas, Cuba. Sixty-six genera are recorded and to these are referred 225 species of which 10 are indicated as new; one new genus (*Reimarochloa*) is proposed. More than one-half (36) of the genera here listed are represented by single species. The author gives carefully prepared keys leading to the genus and species and also cites numerous exsiccatae, thus greatly enhancing the practical value of the publication.—J. N. ROSE (*ibid.* 259–302) has published the sixth paper in his "Studies of Mexican and Central American plants." About 75 species are described as new, and several transfers have been made. Three new genera (*Pelozia*, *Pseudolopezia*, and *Jehlia*) of the Onagraceae are briefly characterized. The text is supplemented by numerous illustrations.—P. C. STANDLEY (*ibid.* 303–389. *pls.* *28–43*) publishes an interesting systematic treatment of the Allioniaceae, dealing chiefly with those of the United States. The author recognizes 16 genera, describes about 50 species and some 20 so-called sub-species as new to science; three of the genera enumerated are new, namely *Anulocaulis*, *Commicarpus*, and *Hesperonia*. Through an apparent oversight the genus Commicarpus either has been omitted from the key to the genera or confused with Senkenbergia.—N. L. BRITTON and J. N. ROSE (*ibid.* 391, 392. *pls.* *44, 45*) propose a new genus (*Thompsonella*) of the Crassulaceae; the genus is represented by two Mexican species. The type of the genus is *Echeveria minutiflora* Rose.—J. N. ROSE (*ibid.* 393–409. *pls.* *46–59*) describes 10 new species of flowering plants chiefly from Mexico and the southwest, including also a new genus (*Conzattia*) of the Leguminosae, and makes critical notes on species previously published.—N. L. BRITTON and J. N. ROSE (*ibid.* 413–437. *pls.* *61–76*), in an article entitled "The genus Cereus and its allies in North America," have recorded 24 genera, of which 15 are designated as new. Of the 131 species enumerated 12 are described as new, 77 form new combinations, and 19 are of doubtful generic relationship. The new genera proposed are as follows: *Acanthocereus*, *Bergerocactus*, *Heliocereus*, *Hylocereus*, *Lemaireocereus*, *Leptocereus*, *Lophocereus*, *Nyctocereus*, *Pachycereus*, *Peniocereus*, *Rathbunia*, *Selenicereus*, *Weberocereus*, *Werckleocereus*, and *Wilcoxia*.—J. N. ROSE (*ibid.* 439, 440. *pls.* *77–81*) describes and illustrates 5 new species of Crassulaceae from Mexico.—J. M. COULTER and J. N. ROSE (*ibid.* 441–451. *pls.* *82, 83*) have issued a "Supplement to the monograph of the North American Umbelliferae" in which the authors include descriptions of 6 new species; two new genera are also proposed, namely, *Ligusticella* and *Orumbella*.—W. R. MAXON (*ibid.* 411. *pl.* *60*) describes and illustrates a new species of Asplenium from China; and (*ibid.* 13:1–43. *pls.* *1–9*. 1909) in continuation of a series of articles begun in an earlier volume of this journal has published results of further studies of tropical American ferns. In this paper, the second of the series, the author describes 16 species of ferns and 2 species of Lycopodium from Mexico and Central America, and also presents a "Revision of the West Indian species of Polystichum" in which 19 species are recognized, 4 being hitherto undescribed.—J. M. GREENMAN.

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[5] Darwin and modern science. Essays edited by A. C. SEWARD. 8vo. pp. xvii+590. Cambridge: The University Press. 1909. $5.00.

A garden book.—A lover of flowers will find pleasure and inspiration in a charming book entitled *A little Maryland garden* by HELEN ASHE HAYS.[6] She writes in a most interesting and pleasantly intimate way of her experiences in starting a flower garden, of her successes and failures, and of the great satisfaction

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[6] HAYS, HELEN ASHE, A little Maryland garden. 12 mo. pp.——. *pls.* *8*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1909. $1.75.